

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2277

INFO USIA WASHDC

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USIA FOR IWE GAWRONSKI

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, PO

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION SECSTATE KISSINGER PRESS CONFERENCE

MARCH 26

1. SECSTATE KISSINGER PRESS CONFERENCE, MARCH 26, COVERED
BOTTOM FRONT PAGE DIARIO DE NOTICIAS UNDER BANNER
"DESPITE CONCERN FOR PORTUGAL, WE DON'T INTEND TO
CUT RELATIONS" AND ON FIFTH PAGE MORNING DAILY O SEculo
HEADLINING "U.S. WILL NOT TAKE INITIATIVE TO CUT RELATIONS
WITH PORTUGAL." PRESS CONFERENCE ALSO NOTED ON NATIONAL RADIO
8:00 A.M. NEWS ROUND-UP MARCH 27, BUT NOT YET REPORTED ON
TELEVISION. ACCORDING NOON NEWS, DIARIO POPULAR
WILL BE ONLY AFTERNOON DAILY TO FRONTPAGE SUBJECT.

2. SALIENT POINTS REPORTED AS DIRECT QUOTES BY PAPERS AND
RADIO WERE:

--THAT "THE EVOLUTION OF POLITICAL EVENTS IN PORTUGAL MIGHT
LEAD THE U.S. TO RETHINK ITS POLICY VIS-A-VIS NATO
AND PORTUGAL";

--THAT PORTUGAL'S MEMBERSHIP IN NATO "IS A MATTER WHICH
MUST BE DISCUSSED WITH OUR ALLIES";

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--THAT "WE ARE DISTURBED ABOUT AN EVOLUTION IN WHICH THERE IS DANGER THAT THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS WILL BE TRANSFORMED INTO A SHAM";

3. SECULO ALSO INCLUDED QUOTE THAT "ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT, SUBSTANTIALLY DOMINATED BY OFFICERS OF LEFTIST TENDENCIES, HAS NOW APPOINTED NEW CABINET IN WHICH COMMUNISTS AND THE PARTIES WITH WHICH THEY ARE CLOSELY ASSOCIATED HAVE MANY OF THE CHIEF PORTFOLIOS. THIS RAISES QUESTIONS FOR THE UNITED STATES IN RELATIONSHIP TO ITS POLICY WITH PORTUGAL AND TO ITS NATO POLICY."

4. EDITORIALIZING IN SAME ARTICLE, SECULO STATES THAT

--"THIS STATEMENT FAR AND AWAY MOST SERIOUS ONE MADE BY U.S. SECSTATE ON SITUATION IN PORTUGAL, WHICH HAS TREATY WITH U.S. ALLOWING IT USE OF STRATEGIC AIR BASE AZORES";

--THAT BY SAYING U.S. WOULD NOT TAKE INITIATIVE IN BREAKING OF RELATIONS WITH PORTUGAL, "IT IS INFERRED THAT KISSINGER THINKS THESE RELATIONS COULD BE IN JEOPARDY";

--THAT "IN REFERRING TO THE DANGERS OF SIMULATING THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS, KISSINGER WAS ALLUDING TO THE POLITICAL CAMPAIGN FOR A CONSTITUTIONAL ASSEMBLY IN WHICH THE CONSERVATIVE PARTIES WERE HARASSED BY THE LEFTISTS."
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